

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 19-29 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 19, 22, 24, and 27-29 are amended by way of this amendment to clarify the subject matter of the invention. All pending claims, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claim 19 is amended to recited “computer readable storage medium” to clarify the subject matter of the claim.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 as well as claims 20 and 21 dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kupiec.

However, each of independent claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 is amended to clarify the definitions of compound query terms, inflectional forms, and/or alternative spellings. For example, claims 1, 19 and 22 are generally amended to further define that each compound query term is a word pair that can be written separately, as a single compounded word (also as amended in claim 24), or as a hyphenated term; that each inflectional term is a word having a plurality of inflectional forms for expressing grammatical relationships (also as amended in claim 27); and that each set of alternative spellings as a word that can be spelled in a plurality of different ways (also as amended in claim 28).

In contrast, Kupiec discloses a method that detects phrases within a natural language input string and broadens and narrows the phrases. Specifically, Kupiec receives the natural language string as input and detects “noun phrases and other grammatical constructs therein” and the analyzed string is then “converted into a series of Boolean queries on the phrases thus detect.” In other words, “a series of queries based on the detected phrases is automatically constructed through a sequence of successive broadening and narrowing operations.” (See, for example, col. 2, lines 1-13). Kupiec does not disclose or suggest expanding individual query

terms based on identifying the term as a compound query term or one with inflectional forms and/or alternative spellings.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 as well as claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rubenczyk.

However, as noted above, each of independent claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 is amended to clarify the definitions of compound query terms, inflectional forms, and/or alternative spellings.

In contrast, Rubenczyk discloses a method that includes expanding the query by adding terms related to a term in the query (paragraph [0143]) as well as analyzing the terms in the query to determine a grammatical interrelationship (paragraph [0149]) and identifying leading and subsidiary terms of the query based on the grammatical interrelationship (paragraph [0150]).

Such additional of terms that are “related” to a search term or the identification of leading and subsidiary terms do not anticipate any of the linguistic techniques generally recited in the claims, namely, expanding the query to include compound query terms, inflectional forms, and/or alternative spellings.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rubenczyk is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brin.

Again, as noted above, each of independent claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 is amended to clarify the definitions of compound query terms, inflectional forms, and/or alternative spellings.

In contrast, Brin discloses a method that includes broadening the search query by replacing (e.g., see FIG. 3A and 3B) an individual term (e.g., “help”) with a list of broadened terms (e.g., “guide,” “tips,” “tutorial,” “problem”).

With regard to compound terms, Brin states in paragraph [0039] that “individual terms 41 are logically grouped with one or more other individual terms 41 to form a compound term and a set of broadened terms is determined for the compound term. For example, the term 41 of ‘hot’ followed by the term of ‘dog’ could be logically grouped to form the compound term ‘hot dog’ and a list of broadened terms could include the term 41 of ‘hamburger,’ ‘wiener,’ and ‘sausage.’” As is evident, such compound terms are different from a compound query term that is a word pair that can be written separately, as a single compounded word, or as a hyphenated term, as generally recited in the claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 19, 22, 24, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brin is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. **50-1217** (Order No. **GOOGP016**).

Respectfully submitted,



Jung-hua Kuo
Reg. No. 41,918
P.O. Box 3275
Los Altos, CA 94024
Telephone: (650) 988-8070
Facsimile: (650) 988-8090